



Brownfields Pilots National Workshop

Office of Outreach and Special Projects

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination, as well as an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA's Brownfields Initiative strategies include funding pilot programs and other research efforts, clarifying liability issues, entering into partnerships, conducting outreach activities, developing job-training programs, and addressing environmental justice concerns.

INTRODUCTION

The first Brownfields Pilots National Workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), was held February 13 and 14, 1996 in Washington, D.C. The workshop provided key stakeholders an opportunity to work with individuals from across the country who are involved in the Brownfields Initiative.

PARTICIPANTS

More than 300 representatives from Brownfields pilot States and cities, the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO), other Federal agencies, the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), and key stakeholders, as well as EPA Brownfields coordinators and program staff, participated in this workshop.

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The national workshop is an important milestone in EPA's Brownfields Initiative. The workshop continues to build on the success of the first year

HIGHLIGHTS:

- More than 300 stakeholders attended the first Brownfields Pilots National Workshop.
- Participants raised key issues and developed recommendations for the national Brownfields Initiative.
- Representatives of EPA's national and regional Brownfields pilots shared critical information on Brownfields issues.
- Participants pursued opportunities to make maximum use of federal, state, and community resources to address solutions to Brownfields issues.

of the Brownfields Initiative and to identify and maximize opportunities for environmental assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment efforts undertaken in the Brownfields pilots.

ACTIVITIES AT THE WORKSHOP

The following is a summary of the workshop.

February 13, 1996

Plenary Session: Presentations

The plenary session began with remarks by Mr. Elliott Laws, Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA; Mr. Steven Herman, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, EPA; Mr. Chester Straub, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC); and Mr. Charles Lee, Chairman of the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee, NEJAC. Following the opening remarks, representatives of four Brownfields pilot projects presented case studies that highlighted the four themes of the workshop: community involvement, workforce development, sustainable redevelopment, and health-risk issues.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

In the afternoon, EPA conducted four breakout sessions to provide participants an opportunity to discuss issues related to the pilot projects and provide feedback to the Agency.

February 14, 1996

Plenary Session: Findings and Recommendations

The second plenary session summarized the findings and recommendations provided by volunteers from each of the breakout sessions. The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer period moderated by Mr. Timothy Fields, Jr., Deputy Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response, EPA. Then Mr. Donald Ellisburg, a member of the NEJAC Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee, and Mr. Fields gave wrap-up presentations. The workshop concluded with Ms. Carol Browner, EPA Administrator, who gave the keynote address and responded to several questions from members of the audience.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Each workshop developed and presented their findings and recommendations during the Plenary Session. Recommendations are those of both panelists and session participants and cover each of the four sessions. Many common concerns were identified by these breakout sessions. Recommendations, as reported, may, therefore, be duplicative of one another.

Session on Sustainable Redevelopment Issues Recommendations:

- Promote educational outreach through dissemination of information to small businesses, lenders, prospective purchasers, and other stakeholders including other Federal and State agencies.
- Develop an Executive Order on the Brownfields Initiative that will ensure that Federal agencies work in a consistent, coordinated manner toward economic redevelopment and revitalization of urban areas.
- Create a resource catalogue of Federal programs addressing financial and redevelopment issues related to brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment.
- Examine legislative and regulatory programs to ensure consistency with the objective of the Brownfields Initiative.
- Ensure, at a minimum, a continuation of Federal resource commitments to support the Brownfields Initiative.

Session on Community Involvement Issues Recommendations:

- Develop “measures of success” for Brownfields projects.
- Create a resource catalogue of Federal programs addressing financial and redevelopment

ment issues related to brownfields assessment, cleanup and redevelopment.

- Identify available and new funding sources for Community Groups.
- Encourage better leveraging of scarce dollars and resources for cleanup activities.
- Promote exchange of information and experience between EPA - both Headquarters and Regions, and States and local entities. Staff and other resource exchanges should be fostered.
- Develop and disseminate guidance on Federal/State Memoranda of Agreement regarding State Voluntary Cleanup Programs.
- Examine legislative and regulatory programs to ensure consistency with the objective of the Brownfields Initiative. Specifically, support liability relief for lenders, prospective purchasers, fiduciaries and local governments.

Session on Workforce Development Issues Recommendations:

- Create opportunities for the creation of long-term, sustainable jobs for communities.
- Provide incentives to business and industry for the training and employment of community residents.
- Ensure that job training and education programs match the needs of businesses and the goals of the community.
- Facilitate coordination and communication among the Brownfield parties both public and private and work to create and encourage effective partnerships.
- Provide incentives for business to redevelop and relocate on brownfields sites.

Session on Health Risk Issues Recommendations:

- Promote State voluntary cleanup programs -- protective of human health and the environment. Public participation in state voluntary programs is a key to a successful program.
- Develop simple, flexible, risk assessment processes for Brownfields sites.
- Build community understanding of risk management decision-making through practical and effective risk communication and partnerships with communities.

EPA ACTIVITIES:

Since February, the following steps have been taken:

• Additional Brownfield Pilots Announced:

In June, the Vice President joined Mayors, Congressional representatives and EPA Administrator Carol Browner at the White House to announce 20 new brownfield pilots. The total number of pilots is expected to increase to over 70 by the end of this fiscal year.

• Interagency Task Force:

In July 1996, EPA hosted an Federal Interagency brownfields meeting with all relevant Federal agencies to discuss opportunities for better coordinating and leveraging Brownfields efforts with our Federal partners. A national brownfield strategy will be developed by an interagency workgroup. In addition, modeled on the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, MOUs have been signed with the Departments of Labor and Interior. The MOU with the Department of Housing and Urban Development will be signed at the Brownfields '96 conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in

September. These partnerships will provide assistance with such crucial Brownfields issues as community involvement, workforce development, sustainable redevelopment, and health-risks.

- Community College Environmental Workforce Development Programs:

EPA is working with the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute (HMTRI) to expand training and curriculum development to community colleges at Brownfield pilot sites. In July, HMTRI, the City of St. Louis, and St. Louis Community College, hosted a workshop for fourteen community colleges representing brown field pilot sites on July 25-26, 1996, in St. Louis, Missouri. The workshop focused on brownfields issues and implementation of environmental workforce development programs.

- Sustainable Development:

EPA, in July, 1996, announced and solicited applications for a new competitive grant program, the Sustainable Development Challenge Grant program. The program is intended to encourage community, business, and government to work cooperatively to develop flexible, locally-oriented approaches that link place-based environmental management with sustainable development and revitalization.

- Brownfields '96:

EPA, the International City/Council Management Association, the American Bar Association, the National Religious Partnership for the Environment and the Mortgage Bankers Association of America cosponsored Brownfields '96, September 19-20, 1996, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Over 40 panels were held on financing, business reuse, community involvement, assessment and cleanup technologies and public/private partnerships.

- Brownfields Tax Incentive:

As a follow-up on the President's Brownfields tax incentive announcement in his 1996 State of the Union address, legislation on the

brownfields tax incentive was introduced by Senators Moseley-Braun, Jeffords and D'Amato and Representative Rangel. The White House proposal would provide a tax incentive for prospective purchasers, allowing them to expense their cleanup costs at Brownfields sites over a relatively short period of time rather than capitalize them over the useful life of the property.

- Presidential Initiative:

In August, 1996, the President called for new support for state and local brownfields efforts to revitalizing brownfields including expansion of grants to communities for site assessments and redevelopment planning, and support for revolving loans to finance brownfields cleanup efforts at the local level. The President also proposed additional support for State Voluntary Cleanup Programs and workforce development training. Such new support would involve approximately 300 cities over the next four years. This proposal would require Congressional legislation.

- EPA Brownfields Budget:

The EPA proposes to expand the Brownfields program and the VA/HUD appropriations bill for fiscal year 1997 includes almost \$37 million for Brownfields program activities. The appropriations bill awaits House-Senate Conference and final approval by the President. Some of the funds in the budget will be used to capitalize revolving loan funds for the first 29 brownfield pilot recipients (those receiving assessment funds prior to 1996). This funding of up to additional \$350,000 per site will be allocated to those 29 pilots based on an established set of criteria and the proposals submitted by the recipients. These additional grants will serve to bring the knowledge base of local governments, States and Federally recognized Indian Tribes to the next logical step of brownfield redevelopment -- site cleanup.

For more information about the Brownfields Initiative, please call the Superfund Hotline at 1-800-424-9346. If you have Internet World Wide Web access, visit our Brownfields Home Page at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>.